

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR 5 MAY 50

SUBJECT Equipment and Personnel of Pyongyang Arsenal
First Factory

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(LISTED BELOW)

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1. The First Factory of the Pyongyang Arsenal manufactures various types of explosives, cartridges, and ammunition for infantry mortars. Its equipment for this production includes the following:
 - a. Pumps: Two, British made in 1917, are hydraulically operated, with a lifting capacity of 5,000 metric tons. Two reserve pumps, manufactured in the Kata Factory in Shinagawa, Tokyo, were acquired in 1933.
 - b. Hydraulic presses: Six, made in Great Britain in 1917, used in manufacturing cartridges, operate at a pressure of 500 metric tons.
 - c. Smelters: Number not given. These smelters (also called boilers by the Koreans) are 9 meters long, 2.5 meters high, and 3 meters wide, and are used in melting or casting metals for munitions.
 - d. Metal saw (shear): Two, of German manufacture, are used to cut metals.
 - e. Carbide tanks: Two, made in the arsenal, can each fill six drums with carbide for welding purposes.
2. The factory operates in two shifts. The pump room employs sixteen persons, including the foreman. The boiler or smelter department and the presses have a staff of 51, divided into three groups of 17 each. Each metal saw has a crew of six workers; 35 persons work in the carbide section; and there are eight mechanics in the central repair shop. In addition, there are 25 employees engaged in transporting raw material within the plant and an office staff of four men and six women clerks. The plant is also guarded by twenty men from the People's Army.
3. One of the two shifts is headed by CH'OE Il-sop (崔 日 燮), the other by PAEK Yong-chu (白 永 柱). Most of the employees are men between 21 and 35, since much of the plant activity involves heavy labor. There are 15 to 20 employees absent daily because of accidents in the course of their work.
4. Quotes for the first shift are 4,050 units of mortar ammunition and cartridges daily, for the second shift, 3,900 daily. These quotas can be met

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when the plant is in full operation. All products are carefully inspected, and an average of about twenty percent is rejected.

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Comment. On 8 January 1950, CH'OE Yong-kon (崔庸健), North Korean Minister of National Defense addressed the factory workers, stressing the importance of their efforts to the country.

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